

16 December 1952

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**MEMORANDUM FOR: PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OFFICE**

**ATTENTION: Chief, Coordination and Requirements Division**

**SUBJECT: Procurement of "Barrier Material, Flexible, Water Vaporproof, Heavy Duty," for Burial Packaging.**

**REFERENCE: (a) Memorandum for Chiefs, AB, LE, FE, ME, LA, SP, and Training Div., Chief II/MA, and Chief of Procurement, from Chairman, RDAB, subject "Progress Report on a Method of Packaging for Underground Storage," dated 4 January 1951.**

1. Research and development under TSS/MD Project: Burial Packaging (MD-39) has lead to the development of a heat sealable foil barrier material to be termed, "Barrier Material, Flexible, Water Vaporproof, Heavy Duty." This material, capable of protecting items during burial is needed by the area divisions for their caching programs. The purpose of this memorandum is to supply sufficient information to enable your office to coordinate requirements of the area divisions and make arrangements to procure the material needed.

2. The subject barrier material consists of a special lamination using plastic coatings of two layers of 0.00045" thick aluminum foil and two layers of "fiber thin" nylon cloth. The material can be heat sealed by any commercially available, jaw type, heat sealer that is capable of sealing specification MIL-B-131B barrier material. Heat Sealers are described in specification MIL-B-14461, titled, "Sealing Machine, Heat, Bench and/or Portable." The newly-developed barrier material is to supercede the use of specification JAN-P-131 (now MIL-B-131B) barrier material described in the reference memorandum, under the "Foil Wrapped Method" of packaging for burial. It is believed that the barrier material will cost approximately \$4.50/yard. The material will come in 100 yard rolls, 36 inches in width. The minimum feasible quantity for production is probably between 2,000 and 5,000 yards.

3. The Heavy Duty Water Vaporproof Barrier Material has been developed for this Agency by the Army Ordnance Corps. Letter Order No. 51-7620 (Secret) dated 2 July 1951 to Assistant Chief of Staff G-4 from Chief of Procurement formalized the request for this development. TSS/Mechanical Division contact at the Pentagon during the development has been Mr. Clayton R. Cornthwaite, Barrier Materials Section, Research and Materiel Branch, Ordnance Research and Development Division. The development of the barrier material

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was immediately handled by Mr. Roy Holly Wood, Chief, Standard Ammunition Branch, Technical Division, Picatinny Arsenal. This work at Picatinny Arsenal was done via Col. Chester A. Clark, C.O. of the Technical Command, Picatinny Arsenal. Col. Clark and Messrs. Cornthwaite and Wood were the only persons knowledgeable of the interest of CIA. These men have been cleared through TOP SECRET by TSS/MD. A purchase description titled, "Barrier Material, Flexible, Water Vaporproof, Heavy Duty," number PA-PD-274, is being prepared at Picatinny Arsenal. A copy of this purchase description will be forwarded to your office as soon as available. The purchase description will specify that the material be marked in the normal manner. For most Agency use, the material should be ordered with no markings.

4. It is strongly recommended that this Agency procure the subject Heavy Duty, Water Vaporproof, Flexible, Barrier Material through the Army Ordnance Corps, Department of Defense, in accordance with their purchase description PA-PD-274. The manufacture of barrier-materials is literally a cut-throat business, and it is felt that no manufacturer in the field can be trusted to keep the use of the material or the contracting authority a secret. If this Agency once started directly procuring the material, the other manufacturers would undoubtedly discover the source of the contract, and the Agency would be harassed by salesmen. To obtain satisfactory material, it will have to be procured in accordance with a rigid purchase description. This requires testing facilities not possessed by the Agency to determine if the material meets the specifications of the purchase description. To obtain the best barrier material at a reasonable price, it is necessary that the material be procured on a competitive basis. This can most easily be done by an overt government organization such as Army Ordnance Corps. As the Army Ordnance Corps normally procures similar barrier materials for all types of packaging problems, undue suspicion would not be aroused concerning the end use of this barrier material.

5. The logical and recommended person to handle the initial procurement of the subject barrier material, via the proper channels, is Mr. Roy Holly Wood of Picatinny Arsenal, mentioned in paragraph 3. Mr. Wood has the necessary testing and procurement facilities at his command, understands the problems to be encountered in procuring such material, and has directed development of the material and drafting of the purchase description. Mr. Wood will be instrumental in seeing that the desired barrier material is procured by their purchase description. As the material has never been produced before in anything but very small developmental lots it is impossible to write a finalized specification at this time. During procurement of the barrier material it is recommended that the interest of CIA not be revealed below Army staff level, with the exception of Col. C. W. Clark and Mr. R. H. Wood of Picatinny. Although this office considers the barrier material per se unclassified, it is felt that the interest of this Agency in the material and its end use for caching is SECRET Security Information.

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6. After several procurements of the barrier material it should be possible to establish specifications, either military or Agency. When these specifications are available, and contractors are familiar with the problems involved in laminating the barrier material, it should be possible to procure the material through any desired channel.

7. Copy of this memorandum is being furnished Purchase Division, Procurement and Supply Office.

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Chief  
Mechanical Division, TSS

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